

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A method for supporting the growth of eukaryotic cells *in vitro*, said method comprising the step of contacting the eukaryotic cells *in vitro* with a cell growth substrate under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said cells, wherein said growth substrate comprises ~~comprising~~ submucosa from stomach submucosal-tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate ~~under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said cells.~~

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the submucosa stomach-submucosal-tissue comprises the tunica submucosa delaminated from both the tunica muscularis and at least the luminal portion of the tunica mucosa of said vertebrate stomach tissue.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of contacting the eukaryotic cells with a cell growth substrate comprises culturing the cells on cultureware that has been coated with fluidized submucosa from said vertebrate stomach submucosal-tissue.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized ~~stomach~~ submucosa from said vertebrate stomach submucosal tissue.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized ~~stomach-submucosal-tissue~~ submucosa from said vertebrate stomach tissue and liquid cell culture media.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises a powder form of submucosa from said vertebrate stomach ~~submucosal~~ tissue.

10. (Currently amended) A method for growing eukaryotic fastidious cells *in vitro*, said method comprising

contacting said cells *in vitro* with a cell growth substrate under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said cells, wherein said growth substrate comprises ~~comprising~~ submucosa from stomach ~~submucosal~~ tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate ~~under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said cells.~~

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the ~~stomach submucosal tissue~~ submucosa comprises the tunica submucosa delaminated from both the tunica muscularis and at least the luminal portion of the tunica mucosa of said vertebrate stomach ~~tissue.~~

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of contacting the eukaryotic cells with a cell growth substrate comprises culturing the cells on cultureware that has been coated with fluidized submucosa from said vertebrate stomach ~~submucosal~~ tissue.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized submucosa from said vertebrate stomach ~~submucosal~~ tissue.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized submucosa from said vertebrate stomach ~~submucosal~~ tissue and liquid cell culture media.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises a powder form of submucosa from said vertebrate stomach ~~submucosal~~ tissue.

16. (New) A method of proliferating *H. pylori in vitro*, said method comprising contacting said cells *in vitro* with a cell growth substrate under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said cells, wherein said growth substrate comprises submucosa from the stomach of a warm-blooded vertebrate.

17. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein the cells are cultured in the presence of a growth modifier compound.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the growth modifier compound is a cytokine or a cytotoxic agent.

19. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the cells are cultured in the presence of a growth modifier compound.

20. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the growth modifier compound is a cytokine or a cytotoxic agent.